

F 232

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LURAY
CAVERNS

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READY REFERENCE

ROUTES TO THE LURAY CAVERNS

From New York Philadelphia Wilmington Baltimore	}	Via Royal Blue Line, Washington and <i>Shenandoah Valley Route</i>	}	From New York Philadelphia Elmira Williamsport Harrisburg Hagerstown	}	Via Pennsylvania R. R. Cumberland Valley R. R. and <i>Shenandoah Valley Route</i>
Washington Harper's Ferry Cumberland Wheeling Pittsburg	}	Via Baltimore & Ohio R. R., and <i>Shenandoah Valley Route</i>	}	Baltimore and Pen-Mar Via Hagerstown	}	Via Western Maryland R. R. and <i>Shenandoah Valley Route</i>
New Orleans Meridian Birmingham Chattanooga Knoxville	}	Via Queen & Crescent Route, Southern Ry. and <i>Shenandoah Valley Route</i>	}	Jacksonville Savannah Charleston Augusta Columbus	}	Via Atlantic Coast Line or Southern Ry. Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. and <i>Shenandoah Valley Route</i>
Memphis Corinth Huntsville	}	Via Memphis & Charleston R. R., Southern Ry. and <i>Shenandoah Valley Route</i>	}	Atlanta Charlotte Danville Lynchburg Charlottesville	}	Via Southern Ry. Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. and <i>Shenandoah Valley Route</i>
Richmond Old Point Comfort Fort Monroe	}	Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. and <i>Shenandoah Valley Route</i>	}	Cincinnati, O. Louisville, Ky. Lexington, Ky.	}	Via Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. and <i>Shenandoah Valley Route</i>
Cincinnati Columbus, O. Portsmouth Kenova, W. Va.	}	Via Norfolk & Western Ry. <i>Shenandoah Valley Route</i>	}		}	

PULLMAN VESTIBULED SLEEPERS AND COACHES ON ALL THROUGH TRAINS

Excursion Tickets are sold by all Railroads and Steamship Lines to the Luray Caverns

Straight one way and Excursion Tickets allow stop-over at Luray within final limit.

The Scenery through the "Shenandoah Valley" and adjacent to the Caverns of Luray is magnificent, and second to no other section in the world.

*“In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree,
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man,
Down to a sunless sea.”*

SITUATED at Luray, Page County, Virginia, in the famous Shenandoah Valley, on the line of the Norfolk and Western Railway, in a region renowned for the picturesqueness of its scenery, and celebrated for its historical associations, are the

Caverns of Luray.

The caves were discovered in 1878, and shortly thereafter were opened to the public. The full extent of their subterranean depths was not then known, or even dreamed of, and not until thoroughly equipped exploring parties had penetrated seemingly endless chambers and labyrinthine passages were their boundless riches disclosed and made accessible to visitors. Since that time the fame of the Caverns has penetrated the uttermost parts of the earth.

Within the past few years the number of visitors has been enormous. Persons from all quarters of the globe—scientists, explorers and tourists, have wandered through the wonderful chambers, and the general verdict of their united testimony is that Luray Caverns excel all others in the combined extent, variety, scientific interest and beauty of their calcite formations. A party sent out from the Smithsonian Institute reports that, “Comparing this great natural curiosity with others of the same class it is safe to



ENTRANCE AVENUE.

say that there is probably no other cave in the world more completely and profusely decorated with stalactitic and stalagmitic ornamentation than that of Luray."

Recognizing the inestimable value of their remarkable possession, the management of the Caverns has provided every facility for visiting all the chambers and seeing all the wonders in the most comfortable manner. Cement walks have been laid, stairways, bridges, and iron railings have been erected where such help was necessary, and the entire subterranean palace is illuminated by both arc and incandescent electric lights. The interior is singularly free from dampness or dripping water, and no special preparation for the visit is needed in the matter of clothing. Plain clothing and stout shoes comprise the necessary outfit, wraps being superfluous, as the temperature remains, winter and summer, at about 54 degrees.

In the Fairy Realm.

Entering the grand vestibule, the first emotion felt by the visitor is one of mute wonder. The mind fails to grasp the grandeur revealed in such a majestic manner, until it gradually accustoms itself to the monstrous shapes, the almost perceptible silence and the weird influence of this subterranean realm. Queer shapes present themselves at every turn, aping grotesquely the objects of the outer world, now suggesting some growth of animal life, now resembling some familiar vegetable formation, or taking the shape and form of some creation of man. Glittering stalactites blaze in front, fluted columns, draperies in broad folds and a thousand tints, cascades of snow-white stone, illuminated by the glare of the electric light, fill the mind with curious sensations of wonder and admiration. Awe and reverence possess the beholder. He stands amazed in the royal chambers of the King of Nature.



HANGING ROCK.

The various apartments and objects have all been named in honor of some distinguished personage or after some thing to which they bear a striking resemblance.

The Elfin Ramble, an open plateau five hundred feet long by one hundred in breadth, is the playground of the princesses of this fairy realm. Pluto's Chasm, a wide rift in the walls, contains a spectre clothed in shadowy draperies. Hovey's Hall is adorned with statuary and stalactite draperies, which, for beauty of coloring, translucency and symmetrical folding, are unexcelled by anything in the cave. Giant's Hall is a vast space, embracing several chambers. Heroic sentinel forms loom up on every side, guarding the marvelous beauty of Titania's Veil, and watching over the crystal waters of Diana's Bath. The Saracen's Tent, the Cathedral, with its grand organ, and the Bridal Chamber, all bear striking resemblance to the objects for which they are named. Hades, a region sparkling with limpid lakes and peopled with goblins, receives its name from the bewildering windings and labyrinthine meanderings through which the tourist must tread his way. Notwithstanding its uninviting name, it is a very attractive portion of the cave and contains many wonderful formations. The Ball Room, a magnificent apartment, gorgeously furnished, is full of interest, while Campbell's Hall, named for the discoverer of the cave, is rich in beautiful and enchanting ornamentation.

In addition to the solid formations of stone and crystal, a number of beautiful lakes are found in various parts of the caves.

Silver Lakes.

Crystal Lake is a body of pellucid water in a setting of sparkling stalactites, and the Imperial Spring is a silver pool richly enclosed in a forest of columns. It is arched above with myriads of stalactites, reflected with most beautiful effect in the calm flood of the spring. The



SIDE VIEW OF BALL-ROOM.

transparent waters of these lakes are so deceptive that rash visitors frequently subject themselves to a wetting in order to convince their skeptical minds of the genuineness of the fluid.

No other caverns are known in which there can be found such an infinite variety of quaint, curious and wonderful formations. Almost every object in nature is here reproduced in startling similarity, while the curious shapes and indescribable grouping of thousands of others seem to be the handiwork of Nature in a playful mood. Fantastic, grotesque, beautiful, weird, grand and superb, are words which find expression on the lips of every one who gazes upon the treasures of this "house not made with hands."

Recent Explorations.

During the winter of 1897 and 1898 new portions of this underground wonder, heretofore unexplored, were opened and made accessible to visitors.

In this newly developed section the high arching and richly ornamented domes found in other parts of the Caverns are a leading attraction, but the decorations of those here found are unique and surpass any previously discovered. Instead of the chandelier effect, with its bewildering and glittering array of translucent pendants which characterize the ceiling of the Ball Room, Campbell's Hall and others, the surface here is a mosaic of rich patches of formations like seaweed and coral, in varied hues, from rich seal brown and deep salmon to the most delicate tint of rose.

These formations appearing at close intervals are massed in a brilliant mosaic by great waves of frothy white and cream, like the foam of the ocean tossed and whirled by the waves. Surmounting all this rich ornamentation that bids defiance to the work of Art, are exquisite flutings of the richest and most delicate order, in pearly white and cream.



FALLEN COLUMN.

Under the brilliant rays of the electric light, the effect of this rich blending of color is far grander than that of the most magnificent sunset the upper earth has ever known.

These "Senate Halls of Nature" can be compared to no work of man's hand. The finest work of Art would be a mute and baffled mimicry in the review of such intricate and gorgeous ornamentation.

Objects of the outer world are represented in these newly discovered chambers as in heretofore explored portions of the Caverns.

In strange defiance to the laws of Nature and Geography, from the side of one of the domes found here pours the cataract of Niagara and only a few feet distant is the Yosemite represented, with its three equidistant leaps in snowy crystals.

The "Golden Apples of Hesperides" are wonderfully presented and give variety to the richness of this wonderful cabinet of Nature.

The "Labyrinth of Perseus" is also tangibly manifested with the figure of "Ariadne" standing near its entrance in the supposed possession of the guiding "Thread."

The figure of the "Petrified Forest" is well sustained in a collection of stalagmites resembling a stunted growth. This is in many places broken, distinctly showing the successive rings and grain of wood in the miniature trees.

This forest extends into the "Labyrinth of Perseus." Tiny white forms adjacent are supposed to represent the 'Babes in the Wood,' fixed in stony and unrelieved terror.



TITANIA'S VEIL.

A formation of striking distinctness and beauty thrown out upon a dark background, is a tall, white figure, standing immediately over the smaller ones. This is supposed to sustain the character of the "Guardian Angel."

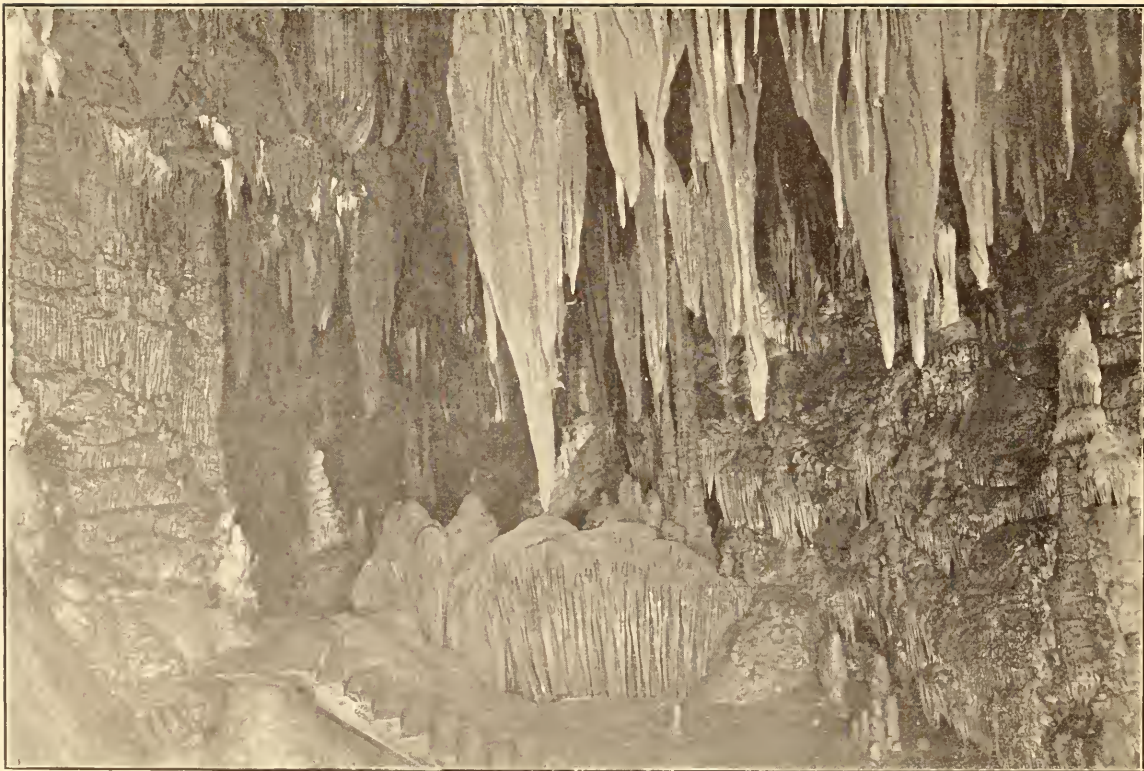
Columns grand and beautiful, and pieces representing statuary, both in bronze and marble, are abundantly interspersed through this new section, which is also especially rich in the multitude, size and magnificence of its voluminous draperies, which enclose the entire section on either side. In many of these the waving effect, instead of the perpendicular fall, is strikingly distinguishable.

These new discoveries are equal to anything yet known in the Luray Caverns.

Conclusion.

It is a task of recognized difficulty to describe the indescribable. This difficulty is enhanced, if possible, in the case of cave scenery by the fact that the impressions it leaves upon the mind of the beholder differ not so much in degree as in kind from those of past experience. A new order of sensations, ideas and emotions demand, of course, a new vocabulary. No straining or expansion of a terminology derived from the upper world will enable it to describe adequately the wonderful phenomena presented in this realm of Stalacta. The visitor who attempts description must be content, therefore, with seeking to impart enthusiasm without hoping to trace fully its causes. This only will remain clearly understood—the felicity of having experienced a sensation altogether novel.

The Persian monarch's desire—a new pleasure—is secured at length to the world in the Caverns of Luray.



ORGAN IN THE CATHEDRAL.



SARACEN'S TENT.



FISH MARKET.

LIMAIR SANITARIUM, LURAY, VIRGINIA,

On Shenandoah Division of Norfolk and Western Railroad.

The air in the great Caverns of Luray, Virginia, has a uniform temperature, the year round, of 54 to 56 degrees Fahr.

It is also singularly pure, by reason of its contact with disintegrating limestone. It is like the air of a freshly whitewashed room. It affords the same tonic as a voyage at sea.

Limair Sanitarium is built above these Caverns. By means of powerful fans and engine the building is pumped full of this pure and cool air. Thus all rooms of the building are supplied with air of great purity. In this way the building is cooled in the summer to any desired temperature.

Think what comfort that means! Think what it means to sleep at night, and to loaf about through the day with a good library at your hand, in rooms cooled down into the seventies while the mercury registers in the nineties outside! What a place for the child you fear "may not live through the summer!" What a place for anybody to rest and restore that vitality which the heated term melts and wastes so rapidly!

For those who need it we provide a simple course of instructions in hygienic and physical culture, deep breathing, etc., which, with this curative atmosphere, has proved of great and lasting benefit to persons overworked in business, society, or school. We honestly believe it is the best place in the world for those with "weak lungs," a "little cough," a "bad throat," la grippe, catarrh, bronchitis, etc. Also for those suffering with nervous exhaustion, insomnia, etc.

But even if the atmosphere did not have the wonderful tonic properties which it is known to possess, the cooled building and the beautiful situation, among the pines, one thousand feet above the sea, overlooking the most beautiful valley in America, would make it a most desirable place to rest and to restore health.

For booklet, terms, references or other information, address

T. C. NORTHCOTT, Luray, Va.

MANSION INN, LURAY, VIRGINIA.

On arrival at Luray do not forget the name "**MANSION INN**" as the place for tourists to stop. All arrangements made here for visitors to Luray Caverns.

Free Bus Between Station and Hotel.

The Mansion Inn is open the year round. Steam heat, sanitary plumbing, private baths and other appurtenances of a modern house combined with excellent service guarantee a most delightful stop. **Bed Rooms Well Ventilated, Nicely Furnished, Beautifully Kept.**

Dining Room.

Delightfully cool in summer and blooming with flowers in winter.

Our meals are served to order and with a measure of care and efficiency which must please our people. Splendid Livery run in connection with the hotel.

Proprietor of the Mansion Inn is in charge of the transfer line for passengers between the R. R. Station and Caverns.

Hotel Rates per day,	-	-	-	-	\$2.00;	per week, \$10.00
"	"	"	Room with bath,	-	2.50;	" 12.50
"	"	"	Rooms en suite with bath,		3.00.	

All letters of inquiry addressed to the undersigned will be promptly answered, and booklets sent when desired.

WALTER CAMPBELL, Owner and Proprietor.

Rates of Admission to Caverns

For Each Person, between the hours of 8 A. M. and 6 P. M. - - - \$1.00

For Each Person after the hour of 6 P. M. - - - - - 1.50

NOTE:—An extra charge, in addition to the rate of admission, will be made for the use of electric lights, *if desired*, for all parties numbering less than six persons entering the Caverns after the hour of 6 P. M.; and for such parties entering at any hour between the first day of December and the first day of May at the following rates:

1 Person, - - - \$2.00

2 Persons, each, - - - 1.00

3 Persons, each, - - - .75

4 Persons, each, - - - \$0.50

5 Persons, each, - - - .25

Between the first day of May and the first day of December, no charge will be made for electric lights between the hours of 8 A. M. and 6 P. M.

Above charges include the service of guides, are fixed by the Company, and no deviation from them is permitted. For further information, address MR. J. KEMP BARTLETT, Secretary-Treasurer, Room 21, Bank of Baltimore Bldg., Baltimore, Md., or MR. LEMUEL ZERKEL, Superintendent, Luray, Va.

Excellent Modern Hotel Accommodations can be had at several Luray Hotels at Moderate Rates. The Entrance to the Caverns is less than one mile distant from the Norfolk and Western Railway Station, where busses meet all trains.

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AND PHILADELPHIA AND GARY, W. VA.

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POINTS, STOP-OVER ALLOWED AT LURAY CAVERNS ON ALL THROUGH TICKETS.

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